

LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

EXPANDED GIFT SHOP OFFERS UNIQUE ITEMS, BOOKS, CRAFTS

HAVE YOU VISITED the California Arboretum Foundation Gift Shop lately? If not, you are due a pleasant surprise. Relocated in a

new structure which encompasses the previous Arboretum exit and Volunteer Gatehouse, the renovated Gift Shop boasts two and one-half times the area afforded in its original location and an expanded line of merchandise to fill the extra space.

The Gift Shop opened April 20 and has experienced an appreciable jump in sales which had already been on the increase.

"We emphasize personal service," said Norma Johanson, Gift Shop manager. "We really care about



New lines of merchandise now supplement old favorites like peacock feathers in the expanded Gift Shop.

people." Miss Johanson, the Gift Shop's first full-time professional manager, brings 20 years experience as a buyer for Armstrong Nurseries and a lifetime of caring to her new position.

"I've been visiting the Arboretum since 1946," she said, "and I love this place." Miss Johanson is a long-time member of the Herb Society of America and, in fact, was chairman of the Arboretum Herb Garden for a recent two-year period. Her fascination with herbs and herb lore now finds outlet in the Gift Shop.

A new line of animal-shaped potpourris from Scarborough Fair are favorites of Miss Johanson, as are some charmingly packaged English soaps by Crabtree and Evelyn, Ltd. Stationery items ranging from greeting cards to gift wraps to note paper are imported from countries around the world. "We want to make the Gift Shop unique, with items you don't see everywhere," said Miss Johanson. A new collection of souve-

nir spoons, key rings, charms, and silver-plate bookmarks, each picturing either a peacock or a view of the Queen Anne Cottage, certainly meet that criterion.

Unique, too, are the handcrafted animals and arrangements fashioned by volunteers from natural, dried materials. Plants potted by volunteers for sale are also money makers, said Miss Johanson, as are postcards and Arboretum booklets. Peacock feathers, of course, continue in popularity. At 75¢ each, they are the number one seller among kids. Adults, meanwhile, are increasingly browsing the bookshelves. "I am constantly reading, looking for new books," says Miss Johanson.

The California Arboretum Foundation Gift Shop is open every day of the year except Christmas from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Don't forget that Foundation members enjoy a 10 percent discount on all merchandise.

ROBIN STAFFORD ELECTED NEW LAS VOLUNTARIAS HEAD

ROBIN (Mrs. Benjamin) Stafford, new president of Las Voluntarias, has only one regret as she assumes her new duties — she will



LuAnn B. Munns

Robin Stafford

no longer have time to work with the mapping crew crawling over rocks and under bushes at the Arboretum. Like many volunteers before her, Mrs. Stafford first came to the Arboretum because she had a general affinity for open space and flowers developed while she was growing up in her native Massachusetts.

But a plant identification course taught by Dr. E. Leonid Enari, former staff biologist, opened her eyes to some of the more subtle charms of the Arboretum.

"He'd come into class with a huge plastic bag filled with plant species he said he had collected on the grounds, and I'd ask myself, 'Now where did he find that?'" The answer to this question often led her to many out-of-the-way places at the Arboretum that she now considers more beautiful in their own way.



Norma Johanson (left), the first professional manager of the Gift Shop, examines new giftware with Dorothy (Mrs. Earle) Thompson.

than some of the more highly publicized features.

Mrs. Stafford and her husband, an Arcadia physician, settled here in 1976 after several years spent in other parts of California. While her two sons were young, Mrs. Stafford limited her involvement with Las Voluntarias to cleaning the depot and working on various Baldwin Bonanza committees. Once the boys, now 8 and 10 years old, started school full-time, she had larger blocks of time and began working on the mapping crew.

As president of Las Voluntarias, Mrs. Stafford plans to search out methods that can be used to make people care more about the Arboretum and its future.

"We must find some way to reach people and gain more support if we are to continue the existence of the Arboretum," she said.

Other officers installed at the Las Voluntarias meeting June 13 included: Dorothy (Mrs. Milton) Murset, 1st vice-president; Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman, 2nd vice-president; and Gene Hoyt, secretary.

CAF TAKES STOCK, SETS GOALS AT ANNUAL MEETING

THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING of the California Arboretum Foundation on June 8 provided an ideal opportunity to celebrate past achievements and begin planning for future growth.

John S. Shepherd, president of the Foundation, reported that in 1982 the organization donated more than \$250,000 for Arboretum projects ranging from routine grounds maintenance to construction of a new Gift Shop. He then pledged support for 21 new goals set for the coming year, particularly the aim of involving the 30 members of the Board of Trustees more directly in Arboretum operations.

The 300 Foundation members at the meeting gave a standing ovation to Dr. Samuel Ayres Jr. and Helen Ayres as Mr. Shepherd described the vital role they played in founding the Arboretum 35 years ago. He then announced that the exhibit hall built by the Foundation has been rededicated as the "Ayres Hall of Environmental Education." A bronze plaque mounted near the front entrance symbolizes the Foundation's appreciation and admiration for the role the couple played in development of the Arboretum.

Sarah Flores, deputy to County Supervisor Peter Schabarum, presented a plaque from the Board of Supervisors honoring the Foundation on their 35th anniversary. The plaque also expresses the Supervisors' appreciation for the Foundation's "financial, volunteer, and moral support in the building and development of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum."

Ms. Flores, in turn, accepted a plaque from the Foundation that

commended Mr. Schabarum for his efforts in behalf of the Arboretum.

After the meeting, each member received either a blue hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*) or *Ficus 'Green Islands'* for the annual plant distribution.



The blue hibiscus *Alyogyne huegelii* was one of the plants distributed at the annual CAF meeting.



Director Francis Ching (left) and Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Ayres Jr. talk outside the Ayres Hall of Environmental Education.

PLANT LIBRARIANS ELECT JOAN DEFATO PRESIDENT

JOAN DEFATO, staff librarian for the Plant Science Library at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, became president of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries at the annual meeting in May. The CBHL links about 150 members in an international network which circulates information through a monthly newsletter, seminars and an informal web of contacts. A book exchange operated by the organization acts as a go-between when a member who has duplicate books wants to trade with another member who may have different surplus books.

During her one-year term in office, Ms. DeFato plans to complete a listing of libraries that hold antique

nursery catalogs. The Plant Science Library at the Arboretum has about 200 of the catalogs, some dating as far back as the 1880s but most from the 20th century. The listing will help researchers who, for instance, are writing histories of horticulture in the United States or who want to trace the history of ownership of one particular nursery.

Ms. DeFato, who joined the Department staff in 1973, has been active in a number of library and horticultural organizations in California since she came here from her native New York. She is currently secretary of the Southern California Chapter of the Special Libraries Association with 600 members who are librarians in a broad scope of subjects ranging from law to aeronautics.



Joan DeFato



LuAnn B. Munns

California Conservation Corps crew members from the San Gabriel center install a system of French drains as they begin renovating the walls of the Hugo Reid Adobe courtyard.

Department Notes



"WORLD IN CALIFORNIA" GARDEN SHOW 1983 THEME

WHEN THE STEERING committee for Garden Show 1983 considered the thousands of people representing different nations who will be in the Los Angeles area for the Olympics, they knew they had the theme for their fall extravaganza. What more appropriate way to welcome international visitors to our area than by celebrating the plants from their countries that add so much richness and variety to our home gardens? Exhibitors can interpret the theme, "The World in California Gardens," using almost any exotic plants they choose, since most of the plants in Southern California originated elsewhere.

Chris Rosmini, designer of the spectacular footbridge that welcomed visitors to the show last year, will create the central feature for Gar-



An extraordinary collection of bromeliads such as these will be one of the highlights of GARDEN SHOW 1983.

den Show 1983 using plants from all over the world.

The timing of the week-long show that runs from Oct. 22 to Oct. 30 also emphasizes the range of plants Southern Californians can use. The exhibits of perennials and tropical plants in small landscape vignettes are planned to remind gardeners that few other climates permit the luxury of year around flowers in their gardens.

"People get most excited about planting in the spring," said Cliff Comstock from Monrovia Nursery, who is chairman of the steering committee. "But fall is actually the best time to plant."

Mr. Comstock said that Garden Show 1983 will be even larger than last year, filling not only Ayres Hall and the adjacent lawns, but also spreading into the Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens. Displays will also occupy part of the 20,000-square-foot tent covering the entire lawn between the Garden For All

Seasons and the main driveway.

An expanded trade mart with 70 different merchandise displays will take up the remainder of the tent. This is where show visitors can shop for everything from miniature orchids to gardening hardware. The steering committee decided this year to almost double the number of commercial exhibits as a service to gardeners who appreciate the chance to do all their shopping for unusual plants and the newest gardening accessories in one concentrated area.

Invitations have also gone out to a number of special guests who will add glamour and expertise to the show. Tentative plans call for appearances by the 1984 Tournament of Roses Queen and her court as well as several gardening experts who will present demonstrations during the two show weekends.

A preview party for the California Arboretum Foundation and members of the plant industry is planned for the evening of Oct. 21.



Cliff Comstock



Exhibitors combine exotic plants and different structural materials in imaginative garden settings for the Annual Garden Show.

BIZARRE TREES TAKE ROOT IN SOUTHWESTERN PLANT AREA

ARBORETUM VISITORS walking past the Southwestern Native Plants section in June must have wondered about the origin of two 20-foot trees that have suddenly appeared beside the tram road. The plants are *Beaucarnea stricta*, a type of bottle-ponytail palm with a huge, swollen base that tapers upward to slim branches ending in tufts of narrow, stiff leaves. Another member of the genus, *B. recurvata*, is fairly common in local gardens and grows much faster than the Arboretum's newly acquired specimens.

Francis Ching, director, pointed out that although the pair is appraised at \$8,000, the specimens are in reality priceless because specimens this large are so rare in Southern California.

These particular plants were already large trees when they were collected in the Baja California

desert, trucked north and planted on George Shellenberger's estate in Beverly Hills. During the half century Mr. Shellenberger watched over the plants, they increased only imperceptibly in size.

After his wife, Helen's, death several years ago, Mr. Shellenberger became concerned about the future of the many valuable plants the couple had collected over the years. He contacted Loran Whitelock, California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees member, who suggested the Arboretum as a safe, permanent repository where the plants could be admired and studied by more people than could possibly visit a private garden.

Mr. Shellenberger then began a program of donating some of his more exceptional plants to the Arboretum. Since most of these plants were cycads, they were smaller and much easier to move than the towering beaucarneas. But for the first time, moving Mr. Shellenberger's

donation involved considerable time and effort because the trees weigh an estimated two tons each. A block wall had to be removed so a 10-ton crane could maneuver close enough to lift the trees onto the flatbed trailer that carried them from Beverly Hills to the Arboretum.

As they lay propped on their sides for a week while the transplanting wounds calloused over, the succulents exposed a surprisingly sparse fringe of roots less than a foot long. It was hard to believe that those small roots could collect enough water and nutrients to feed such large trees. That, however, is exactly what they have been doing during the two or three centuries since they first sprouted in their harsh habitat in northern Mexico.

Now these bizarre, drought-tolerant trees are safely installed in the Southwestern Native Plants section, constant witness to the multitude of adaptations plants have made to the semi-arid Southwest.



Using ingenuity and available equipment, the Arboretum staff maneuvers a two-ton *Beaucarnea stricta* into place in the Southwestern Native Plants section.



Public invited to:

**SANTA ANITA DEPOT
OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, Sept. 25, 1983
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

-Guided Tours-



**Friday, September 16, 1983 at the
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum**

THE QUEEN ANNE FROLIC



**LOS ANGELES STATE AND
COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia**

SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 11 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cactus & Succulent Show
San Gabriel Valley Cactus &
Succulent Society

SEPTEMBER 16 — 5:30 to 11 p.m.
Queen Anne Frolic
For members and their guests

SEPTEMBER 24, 25 — 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bonsai Show
Akebono Bonsai Society

OCTOBER 8, 9 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Santa Anita Bonsai Society

OCTOBER 8, 9 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hemerocallis Bulb Sale
Hemerocallis & Amaryllis Society

**OCTOBER 15, 16 — Sat. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Flower Show
Arboretum District of the
California Garden Club, Inc.

**OCTOBER 22 thru 29 — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Last day 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
Garden Show 1983

NOVEMBER 12, 13 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Koi Show
Ikeru Hoseki Koi Club
*All events sponsored by the
California Arboretum Foundation*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER
1983**

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 23 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Artist of the Month Lynn Fash

OCTOBER 15, 16 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Annual Plant Sale

OCTOBER 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Chrysanthemum Show
Glendale Chrysanthemum Society
*All events sponsored by the
Descanso Gardens Guild*

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC
GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula**

SEPTEMBER 4 — 2 p.m.
How to Photograph Flowers
Helen Righter, international judge

SEPTEMBER 11 — 2 p.m.
Talk — Begonias, Cane & Other Types
Elda Regenbal, professional grower

SEPTEMBER 18 — 2 p.m.
Talk — Dahlias
Dick Kohlschrieber

SEPTEMBER 25 — 2 p.m.

Slide Show—Succulents of Madagascar
Sam Williams

OCTOBER 2 — 2 p.m.

Craft demonstration
Dorothy Barnes

OCTOBER 9 — 2 p.m.

Talk — Planting Winter Vegetables
Jean Jacyna

OCTOBER 16 — 2 p.m.

Talk — Soils
Eleanor Barker, Palos Verdes
Begonia Farm

OCTOBER 23 — 2 p.m.

Wreath-making
Suzie Seamans

OCTOBER 29, 30 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bonsai Show
South Coast Bonsai Association

NOVEMBER 5, 6 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Orchid Show
South Bay Orchid Society

NOVEMBER 13 — 2 p.m.

Gardens of Japan in Fall Color
Don Walker

NOVEMBER 20 — 2 p.m.

Talk/Demonstration — A Herb Affaire
Kirby Davis

NOVEMBER 27 — 2 p.m.

Gardens of the World
Lorena Bach
*All events sponsored by the
South Coast Botanic Garden
Foundation*